



NEWS RELEASE

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SOMALIAN NATIVE INDICTED FOR TRANSMITTING \$1 MILLION TO BANKS IN SWITZERLAND AND MINNESOTA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a naturalized citizen of the United States and native of Somalia appeared in federal court today on charges relating to nearly \$1 million in illegally transmitted money to banks in Switzerland and Minnesota.

Serar Ahmed Abdullahi, 41, of Kansas City, was arrested today on charges contained in a previously sealed federal indictment. The indictment was unsealed and public upon **Abdullahi's** first appearance in federal court this afternoon. The indictment was initially returned on Sept. 29, 2005.

Abdullahi, a naturalized citizen of the United States and former citizen of Somalia, operated an ethnic Somali grocery store in 2000. The store, Som Halal, operated for about one year and was located in Kansas City. Since that time, **Abdullahi** has worked as a taxicab driver.

Abdullahi also has opened and maintained various bank accounts in his personal name and made a total of approximately \$1,146,748.46 in deposits (including \$869,861.88 in currency deposits) between Jan. 5, 2000, and Jan. 14, 2003. During the same time period, the indictment alleges, **Abdullahi** received fees for the transfer of approximately \$956,370 to locations outside of Missouri, including approximately \$347,045.34 to an account under the name B.P. Shah in Geneva, Switzerland, and \$609,325.09 to an account under the name Jubba Financial Services, Inc., in Minneapolis, Minn. Jubba Financial Services has since changed its name to Kaah Express, F.S., Inc., the indictment states.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Abdullahi** illegally transmitted the money by means of operating a money transmitting business without a proper license from the State of Missouri's Division of Finance, between Jan. 5, 2000, and Oct. 25, 2001.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Abdullahi** continued to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business between Oct. 26, 2001, and Jan. 14, 2003.

Counts Three through Nineteen of the federal indictment allege specific instances in which **Abdullahi** evaded United States currency reporting requirements when he deposited money into bank accounts under his control.

“Currency transactions that are in excess of \$10,000 are required to be reported to the United States,” Graves said. “In order to evade those requirements, today’s indictment alleges that **Abdullahi** made frequent deposits in amounts less than \$10,000. Counts Three through Nineteen allege a specific instance in which **Abdullahi** made a deposit of less than \$10,000, which was then followed by a wire transfer made to either B.P. Shah or Jubba Financial Services.”

Counts Twenty through Twenty-five of the federal indictment allege that **Abdullahi** falsified information in Applications for Food Stamp Benefits submitted to the Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services on six occasions between Jan. 12, 2001, and Jan. 7, 2003. The material facts that **Abdullahi** omitted had to do with information regarding his bank accounts and income he received from his money transmitting business, the indictment alleges.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow